

This downtown stroll is a tour of various sustainability features in downtown Edmonton.

Read about Edmonton's environmental strategic plan, The Way We Green, at:

edmonton.ca/thewaywegreen

Related Websites

Art Gallery of Alberta
youraga.ca

City Hall
edmonton.ca/cityhall

Edmonton Public Library
epl.ca

Fairmont Hotel Macdonald
fairmont.com/macdonald

Hotel Alberta & CKUA
dubarchitects.ca/the-alberta-hotel.html

Manulife Place
manulifeplace.com

River Valley Parks System
edmonton.ca/parksrivervalley

Shaw Conference Centre
shawconferencecentre.com

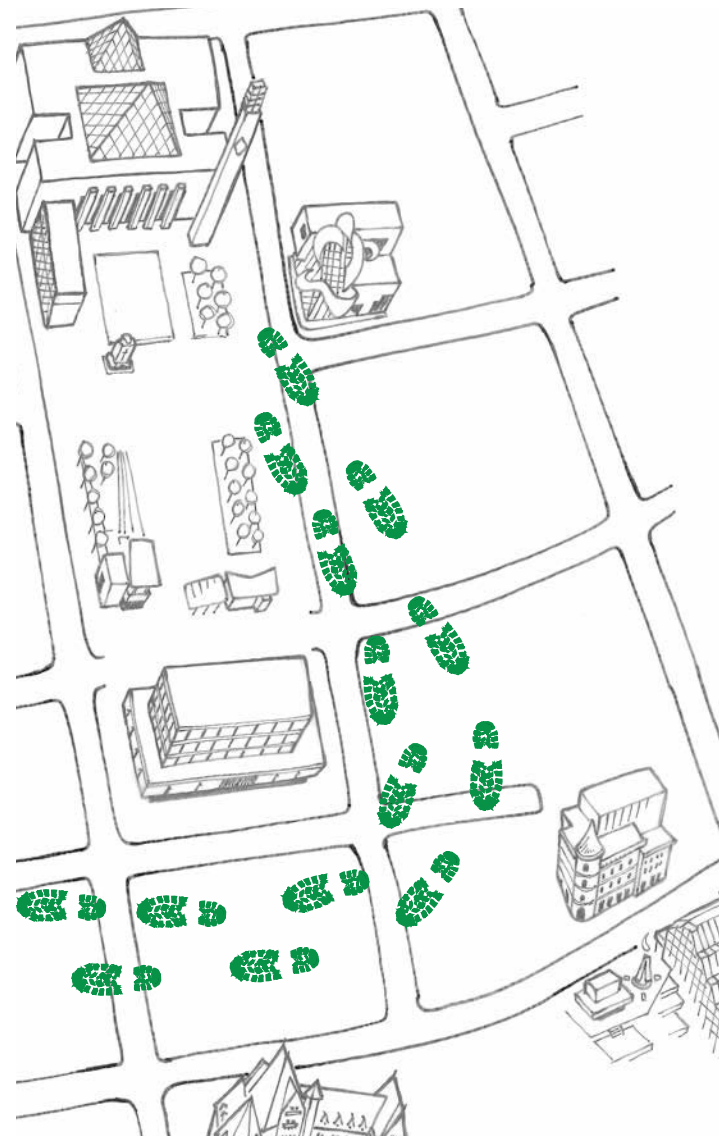
Newsletters

Interested in staying up-to-date with Edmonton's environmental issues? Subscribe to:

The Way We Green monthly update:
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Edmonton Downtown Sustainability Stroll



City of Edmonton — Environment

Phone: 311 (in Edmonton)
780-442-5311 (outside Edmonton)

Website: edmonton.ca/lovegreen

edmonton.ca/lovegreen

Edmonton



Sustainability Stroll Stop

Stop #	Location
1	City Hall
2	City Hall Cenotaph
3	Art Gallery of Alberta
4	Edmonton Public Library (Stanley A. Milner)
5	River Valley Parks System
6	Shaw Conference Centre
7	Hotel Alberta / CKUA
8	Fairmont Hotel Macdonald
9	Manulife Place
10	Sir Winston Churchill Square

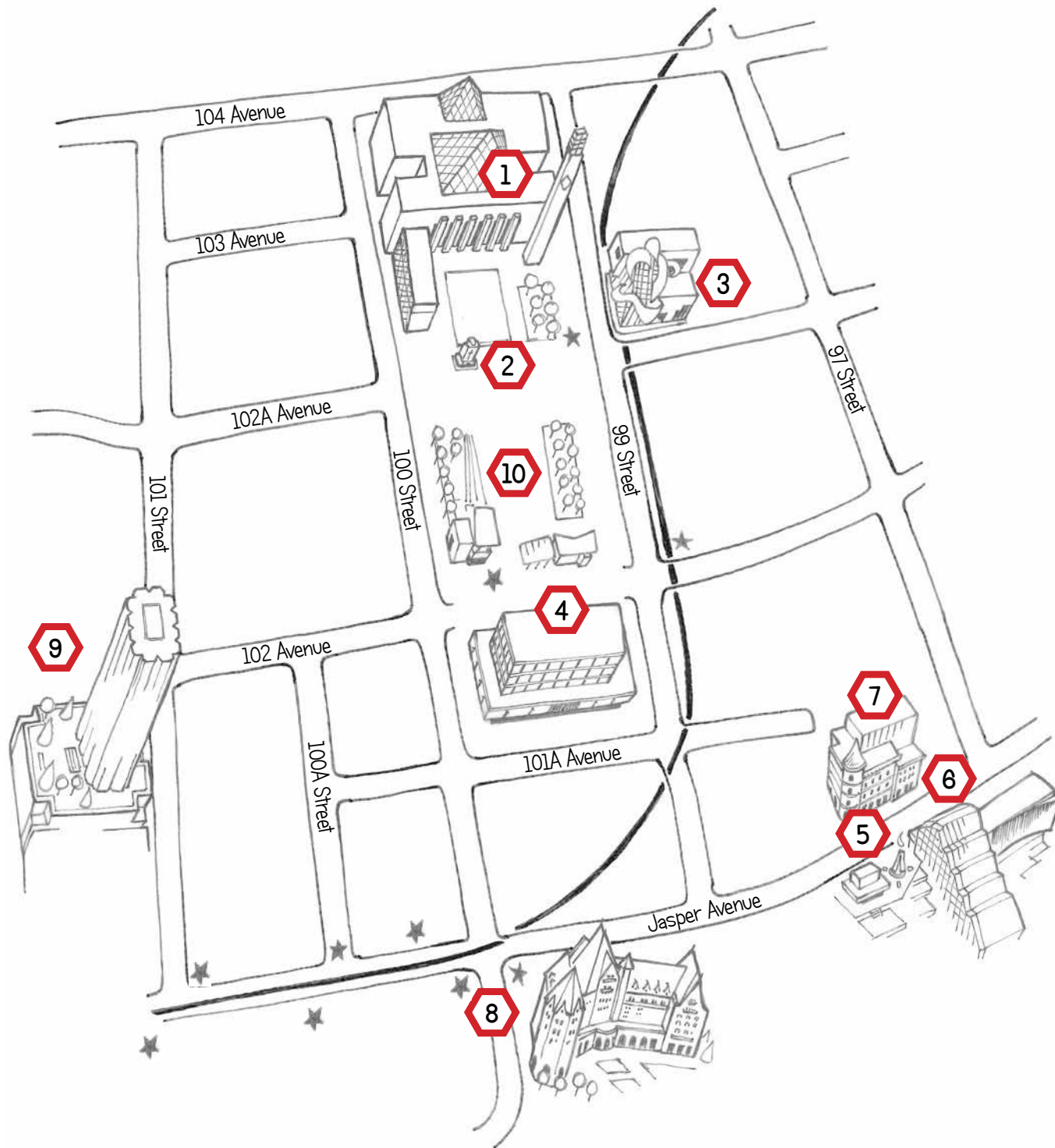


LRT Station Entrance

LRT Capital Line (underground)

This tour starts and finishes at City Hall and is approximately 2 km.

Please remember that there are areas in some of these buildings that are for tenants only and are not public spaces. Please refrain from trespassing and stay in the public areas.



Sustainability and environment are not often the first words that spring to mind when people think of cities and downtown areas. It is hoped that this tour will change that by highlighting the environmentally friendly initiatives that are happening within the heart of Edmonton.

1 Leading the Way City Hall, City Hall Room

Starting this tour at City Hall is symbolic of how the city government is leading the way to a sustainable city. City Hall is certified as a BOMA BEST®



building. Buildings are awarded this certification by the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) based on the building's energy savings and best environmental practices. BEST stands for "Building Environmental Standards" and is a certification system for energy and environmental performance in buildings that were built before BOMA BEST was developed.

Highlights:

- This City Hall opened in 1992 on the site of the former City Hall.
- Parts of the old building have been reused in the new. The beige stone stripes on the floor are travertine and are from the old City Hall.
- The two glass pyramids maximize natural light while minimizing the need for electrical lighting.
- Low flow toilets and faucets minimize water use.

- Direct access to the LRT station allows public and staff to use sustainable transportation.

Exit the south doors of City Hall and walk to the stone cenotaph (monument) at the end of the wading pool.

2 Shifting Gears Cenotaph Outside City Hall

From this angle, you can see more examples of reused construction materials. The burgundy pillars are reclaimed granite from the old City Hall and the green marble on the top floor of the Councillor Wing (west wing) was salvaged from the elevator lobbies of the old City Hall.



Look around. What do you see? On most days you will see lots of people. If everyone arrived here by car, not only would there not be enough parking spaces but those cars would be releasing tonnes of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The Edmonton Transit System (ETS), made up of trains and buses, provides alternative sustainable modes of transportation.

Highlights:

- The two glass pyramids of City Hall were designed to look like the Rocky Mountains.
- From this location you can see at least four different ways you could travel to all corners of Edmonton:
 - » Bus System—Edmonton has 6,803 bus stops and 944 buses.
 - » LRT (Light Rail Transit)—The Capital Line, which started full operations in

1978 with 6.9 km of track, was the first LRT system in Western Canada.

- » Bicycle Lanes and Racks—Edmonton is investing in public bike racks, bike storage in office buildings and a system of bike lanes in an effort to encourage people to bike more and to get fit.
- » Walking—To the west, you can see a Pedway System overpass. This 13 km network of indoor walkways, bridges and tunnels connects more than 40 buildings and three LRT stations in the downtown area.

Walk to the east corner of this block, opposite the Art Gallery of Alberta. There is no need to cross the street unless you wish to explore the Art Gallery.

3 The Art of Building Green Art Gallery of Alberta

The Art Gallery of Alberta, with its unique angles and curves, was inspired by the North Saskatchewan River and the Aurora Borealis.



Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a green building standard like BOMA BEST® that uses a point system to rate the environmental aspects of new buildings. Through LEED, construction companies are made aware of best environmental practices and results in the construction of buildings that use less energy, water and natural resources than conventional buildings. The Art Gallery of Alberta is currently working towards earning its certification.

Highlights:

- 90% of the 800 tons of steel used in its construction was recycled material.
- An internal access to the LRT results in more visits using sustainable transportation than by car.
- The southern overhangs prevent overheating of the building in the summer, but allows winter sunlight to enter.

Walk south along 99 Street to the corner of 102 Avenue. There is no need to cross 102 Avenue.

4 Sharing for Sustainability Edmonton Public Library (EPL)

With over 160,000 Edmontonians using the EPL library system regularly, it is a perfect example of a “sharing economy”. A sharing economy is the sharing of resources among many people. Years ago, farmers would work together at harvest time to share labour and equipment so that each farmer didn't have to buy a plow. Now you can find examples of book, bike and even car sharing in Edmonton today.



Highlights:

- The Stanley A. Milner Library renewal project aims to obtain a LEED-NC (New Construction) Silver certification and will include lighting and mechanical control system upgrades as well as an increased use of natural light.
- Stanley A. Milner Library's Makerspace has computers, 3D printers, gaming consoles and even a sound booth, allowing people to create without having to purchase equipment of their own.

- The EPL “Green Team” teaches staff at all branches green behaviours, such as recycling and ways to save energy.
- By using an energy efficient fleet of vehicles to transport books, fuel consumption is reduced by 60%.
- When EPL discards books and movies, the materials are sent to booksales for charitable events or to Better World Books to distribute to needy schools and libraries worldwide.
- The Lois Hole Library is LEED certified, and Jasper Place Library is currently working towards certification. Initiatives include energy efficiency, proximity to bus routes, water efficient landscaping and recyclable materials used during their construction.

Cross 102 Avenue. Continue south along 99 Street and cross Jasper Avenue. Turn east (left) and continue to the plaza and overlook between the Edmonton Information Centre and the Shaw Conference Centre.

5 The Ribbon of Green The River Valley Parks System

The North Saskatchewan River Valley, known as the “Ribbon of Green”, covers 7,400 hectares and forms the largest municipally-owned urban park in North America. This area is a major ecological corridor across Edmonton and is critical to protecting biodiversity in Alberta. The City of Edmonton recognizes the importance of our park system and is continually acquiring more land every year while working to restore or improve areas it already owns.



Highlights:

- According to the Edmonton Biodiversity Survey, the river valley in Edmonton supports a wide variety of species:
 - » 47 mammals
 - » 178 birds
 - » 27 fish
 - » 180+ invertebrates (insects, spiders, etc.)
 - » 2 reptiles
 - » 5 amphibians
 - » 487 plants
 - » 221 fungi
- Riparian habitat, the zone between water and dry land, supports high levels of biodiversity and can provide easier passage for wildlife.
- Edmonton's river valley supports natural processes like decomposition and seed dispersal, protects us from flooding and allows us to connect with the natural world.

Now look to the east (left) at the Shaw Conference Centre.

6 Better Through Behaviour Shaw Conference Centre

The Shaw Conference Centre (SCC) is committed to leading the way for their industry in sustainable best practices. SCC continuously seeks new ways to reduce its environmental footprint while promoting green meetings and conferences. SCC's sustainable initiatives have earned a number of awards and certifications including the honour of being the first Canadian conference venue to receive the top rating of Green Key Level 5.



The Green Key Eco-Rating Program is a graduated rating system designed to recognize hotels, motels, resorts and

conference centres that are committed to improving their environmental performance.

Highlights:

- The plants in the atrium are responsible for the absorption of over 1,800 kg (4,000 lbs) of CO₂ a year.
- Next to the “living wall” is a showcase of SCC’s sustainability programs, including staff participation in public events such as the River Valley Clean Up.
- Three gardens on the property contribute to urban biodiversity: a medicine wheel garden featuring regional indigenous plants to honour Edmonton’s Aboriginal community, a herb and vegetable garden that is kept by the kitchen staff and a monarch butterfly preservation garden.
- SCC hosts Homeless Connect twice a year and donates all leftover meals to the Edmonton Food Bank’s Second Helping Program. In 2014, it donated almost 7,258 kg (16,000 lbs) of food.
- Sustainability tours provide information on the environmental initiatives and historical significance of the venue.

Turn back to Jasper Avenue but don’t cross it. Look across the road a little to the east (right) to see the Hotel Alberta/CKUA building with the white cupola, or dome, on the corner.

7 Rebuilding History Hotel Alberta/CKUA

Another important environmental action is the reuse of objects and materials. This building is a perfect example of reuse. In 1984, the building was removed to make room for Canada Place but thankfully, much of it was saved and it was rebuilt in 2011.



Highlights:

- The stone exterior of the original building was taken apart piece by piece, numbered and put into storage.
- Many of the interior decorations such as bar mirrors and plumbing fixtures were saved as well.
- It now houses CKUA, Alberta’s (and Canada’s!) oldest public educational broadcasting station.
- The basement holds a collection of 275,000 vinyl records going back to the 1920s and Edison discs dating back to 1912. For the first time, this educational resource is kept in a climate-controlled space.

Turn west (left) and walk down Jasper Avenue from the direction you came, until you are in front of the Fairmont Hotel Macdonald. (2.5 blocks)

8 Green Hospitality The Fairmont Hotel Macdonald

The Fairmont Hotel Macdonald has been operating on the bank of Edmonton’s river valley since 1915 and is doing its part to lead the way in sustainability within the tourism industry.



Water conservation in hotels can make a big impact in both the environment and dollar savings. Water accounts for about 10% of utility bills in many hotels. Of the water used, on average, 34% is used in the guest rooms and 17% in just doing laundry. Depending on their water efficiency, hotels can reduce the amount of water consumed per guest per night by up to 50% compared with establishments with poor performance in water consumption.

Highlights:

- Fairmont Hotel Macdonald has a Green Key Eco-Rating of Level 4, with Level 5 being the highest rank—not bad for a building built in 1915.
- The building has been refitted with low-flow toilets, faucets and showers, and not only does it offer the option to not wash your towels and linens every night, it offers eco-friendly cleaning.
- Other sustainable options include paperless checkout and bike rentals to help you explore the river valley.

Continue west on Jasper Avenue and turn north (right) on 101 Street. Walk north until you cross 102 Avenue. Stop on the corner and look at the building kitty-corner (diagonally) across the street.



From Grey to Green Manulife Place

This building is Manulife Place and, like numerous other buildings downtown, is a BOMA BEST® certified building. What makes this building unique is its green roof. Note: This green roof is accessible only to those who work in the building, and urban birds.



On a green roof, you will find 8 to 30 cm (3 to 12 inches) of soil with vegetation, usually grass, growing on the surface. Green roofs provide a green natural area for people to gather, serve as nesting habitat, control runoff during heavy rains and have many other benefits:

- Green roofs last almost twice as long as a traditional roof, reducing costs and waste from re-roofing.
- The vegetation and soil protects the building from UV rays and extreme daily temperatures.
- Green roofs protect the building from heating in the summer and minimize heat loss by providing insulation in the winter.
- By trapping dust particles, heavy metals and compounds, and absorbing them into the green roof system, the plants and soil help reduce smog and improve air quality.

Individual roofs themselves will not have a great effect; however, large areas of green roofs in a city can have a noticeable effect.

Highlights:

- Manulife Place has energy efficient lighting, water saving faucets and fixtures as well as bicycle parking.

- High performance glazing on the windows let in the maximum amount of daylight while minimizing heat entering the building. This reduces the need to turn on extra lights or air conditioning.

Continue east on 102 Avenue, back towards City Hall. Cross 100 Street and stop on the corner of Sir Winston Churchill Square.



Tying it Together Sir Winston Churchill Square

We are now back in the centre of the city, the centre of the hustle and bustle. All of this activity impacts the environment.



By measuring many of the items we discussed today, the City of Edmonton is able to evaluate and manage environmental impacts.

City Council has set a goal for Edmonton to be a leader in environmental preservation and in achieving high standards in sustainability. A variety of City programs have been developed to reduce dependence on non-renewable energy sources and to protect the air, land, water and biodiversity in the Edmonton area.

Edmonton's Community Energy Transition Strategy has been adopted to help move Edmonton away from its dependence on coal-generated power, which makes up approximately 95% of the electricity used in Edmonton, and to help the City reach the goal of a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from City operations by 2020, from 2008 levels.

A Greener Edmonton

As you can see, many businesses, organizations and groups in the downtown area are passionate about working towards a sustainable future. We hope some of the things you learned on this tour will inspire you to take part in some way in this goal and help to create the healthy urban environment that contributes to the quality of life for everyone in Edmonton and beyond.

Thank you for participating in the Edmonton Downtown Sustainability Stroll. We hope you enjoyed the information, the exercise and the adventure.

For more information on environmental and sustainability events and ideas, please visit:

edmonton.ca/environmentprograms

